

#E1-648  
R21

February 22, 2004

3980 FM 2676  
Hondo, Texas 78861

received  
2/26/04

Surface Transportation Board  
Case Control Unit  
1925 K Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Attention: Rini Ghosh

Re: Finance Docket No. 34284

Dear Ms. Ghosh:

In response to the Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement, I am submitting the following to be considered in the formal scoping process.

I believe Vulcan's proposed quarry and the proposed SGR rail line, regardless of where the railroad is constructed, are connected actions, and should be studied in the same Environmental Impact Statement. The study should include direct impacts and alternatives to other projects, including no quarry and no rail line at all.

I am James Dittmar. My wife, baby daughter, and I live on my parents farm at 881 County Road 353. My wife and I just purchased an additional 50 acres joining the part on which we live. We planned to make this our home but are not sure we can survive the environmental hazards created by the quarry and rail. We suffer from allergies now and feel the baby could not handle the air pollution.

We have an erosion control practice in place; but as far as we can tell, the railroad will cut right through the middle and we will have to start over. It will be much too expensive <sup>to</sup> have the practice in place on both sides. We are very fearful of what the quarry and the construction of , and the use of, the rail will do to our Edwards Aquifer and our own waterwell, sewer system, and pipeline.

A few hundred feet on the other side of the house is CR 353, a dusty gravel road which will carry the traffic, including maybe a hundred trucks a day to and from the proposed quarry loading area, headquarters, and designated points of

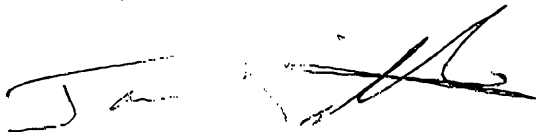

delivery. This will create a dangerous air pollution problem. There will be so much dust we will not be able to breathe. The same will be the case with the dust from the rail cars from quarry to wherever, every city, town, and it's people will suffer.

We have heard that there is not enough traffic on FM2676 or CR4516 to merit overpasses. We personally use these routes to go to work and feel there is a tremendous amount of traffic, far too much for signals alone. Firetrucks, ambulances, emergency law officers, school buses will be held up if there are no overpasses. This is unacceptable—we must have the EIS report and any other report completed to assure everyone concerned that all legal requirements will be met as far as safety is concerned.

Wildlife must be protected. This is a reason for living in a rural area, and, hunting has also become in many cases including ours, a necessary form of income.

I do hope that our concerns, along with your newly required survey, will save us from this disaster.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "S".A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donna Pittman". The signature is cursive, with a large initial "D" and "P".